

FOSSIL BEDS OF OREGON.
WHERE THE ELEPHANT, CAMEL, AND
REINDEER DWELT WHEN THE
WORLD WAS YOUNG.

A correspondent of the Eugene City (Or.) *Guard* gives the following account of a visit made last June by himself and another person to the so-called fossil beds of Lake county, that State:

"Silver Lake and Summer Lake both lie on the confines of the great desert, by the crossing of which so much suffering was experienced by some of the early Oregon pioneers, the desert lying north and east of these lakes. Silver Lake is encompassed by 'rim rock,' except on the northwest. On the east there is a gap which leads into a basin nearly circular, and which is probably thirty miles in diameter. This basin is surrounded by rim rock on the south, southwest, and west, rising to the height of several hundred feet, with occasional breaks or canons, sloping into the basin. On the north and northeast of the basin the ascent is more gradual, but at a distance presenting an uninterrupted barrier. The surface of this basin is comparatively level, being subject, however, to slight inequalities in the hillocks or low ridges rising but a few feet, the whole heavily set with sage (or artemisia), greasewood, and other small but kindred growths. The soil, if we may call it soil, seems to be composed of light sand and volcanic ash, with a percentage of vegetable mold, into which a horse will frequently sink to his fetlocks. Near the centre of this basin, and about eighteen miles from Silver Lake, in a northeast direction, is 'Christmas Lake,' eight miles from Christmas Lake, in the same direction and apparently on the same level, are the Fossil Lakes. About five miles further on, in the same direction, are two springs of tolerably good water. These springs are about half a mile apart. I heard the most northerly called Duncan's Spring and we called the other Mound Spring. The rocks about Silver Lake and Summer Lake, were stratified, appear to drip to north."

"From twenty to forty miles in a northwest direction from here are the Fossil Lakes, set in the lava mountains, or rather mountains of lava. It would seem that these fossil remains might have remained buried from four to ten feet in the earth, and, therefore, unknown to the prying eyes of the antiquarian, but for the action of the wind. There seems to be a constant current of wind from the southwest. All that space where bones are found appears to be scooped out to the depth of several feet, and carried, some of it, to a distance of from five to ten miles, where it is piled up in every conceivable form, evidently by the action of the wind; conclusive evidence of this is found in the numerous little mounds still remaining and able to resist the action of the wind by the aid of the roots of some more vigorous bunch of sage or greasewood. These mounds present a beautiful example of stratification, often five or six strata, ranging from three to eight inches in thickness, very clearly marked. On the lower levels of the excavation are where the fossils are found. We found fossil bones of the elephant, camel, horse, elk or reindeer, the horse being much more abundant than either of the others, but all being so clearly marked as to leave no doubt as to their identity. The e were other bones, apparently of large animals, but your correspondent was unable to name the animal they once belonged to. Among the fossils found the smaller quadrupeds had a representation; bones answering in size to a fox and wolf were found; also others answering to the sheep or goat in size and appearance. Remains of birds were very plentiful, some very large, others quite small. Waders, swimmers, scratchers, and probably climbers, were recognized. The verbiage or backbone of fish, or some other animal with a backbone like a fish, are found in great plenty; also bones like nothing I ever saw before, therefore I will not attempt to describe them. The fossil remains lie scattered over the earth for a distance of four or five miles in the direction of northeast and southwest, the strip being probably a mile wide. Near the southwest end of the deposit are two small lakes or ponds, highly impregnated with alkali, the water having a milky appearance, with a disagreeable taste and smell. I have presented to Professor Thomas Condon, of the State University, to whom I was largely indebted for valuable suggestions as to the manner of selecting and packing specimens, the most of my find, retaining but duplicates myself. To any who may contemplate a visit to this fossil deposit, I would say it is anything else but play or pleasant amusement, besides surface specimens are rather scarce, pretty near all that were in sight having been carried away, and it is not known whether digging would yield profitable results, and if it did any number of holes might be sunk before striking pay dirt. Not being a scientist, I have no theories to offer as to the time when these animals lived, or the circumstances attending their death, or what were the necessary surroundings in order to preserve the bones to the present time."

TO KEEP SAUSAGE MEAT.—As soon as convenient after making sausage, cut in slices or make in cakes and fry till done. Take a stone jar, place y in it, let it cool, and pour over the frying. If not sufficient to cover to the depth of two inches when done, use fresh lard. Keep the sausage in a cool place. When wanted for use remove the lard, take out what you want and return the lard to keep the air from what remains. This will keep till August. I have never tried to keep it any longer.

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